

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHAIRMAN

BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, NEW YORK
CONSTANCE A. MORELLA, MARYLAND
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
STEPHEN HORN, CALIFORNIA
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
THOMAS M. DAVIS III, VIRGINIA
DAVID M. MCINTOSH, INDIANA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
JOE SCARBOROUGH, FLORIDA
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO
MARSHALL "MARK" SANFORD, SOUTH CAROLINA
BOB BARR, GEORGIA
DAN MILLER, FLORIDA
ASA HUTCHINSON, ARKANSAS
LEE TERRY, NEBRASKA
JUDY BIGGERT, ILLINOIS
GREG WALDEN, OREGON
DOUG OSE, CALIFORNIA
PAUL RYAN, WISCONSIN
HELEN CHENOWETH, IDAHO
DAVID VITTER, LOUISIANA

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5074
MINORITY (202) 225-5051
TTY (202) 225-6852

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
ROBERT E. WISE, JR., WEST VIRGINIA
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
PATSY T. MINK, HAWAII
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CHAKA FATTAH, PENNSYLVANIA
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH, ILLINOIS
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
JIM TURNER, TEXAS
THOMAS H. ALLEN, MAINE
HAROLD E. FORD, JR., TENNESSEE
JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY, ILLINOIS

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,
INDEPENDENT

October 7, 1999

BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable Raymond L. Bramucci
Assistant Secretary
Employment and Training Administration
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Mr. Bramucci:

This letter follows up on my letter of August 3, 1999, and the joint September 30th hearing entitled "Grant Waivers: H.R. 2376 and Streamlining the Process." The Subcommittees on Government Management, Information, and Technology and National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs request you to comment specifically on each of the following possible ways to streamline agency processes for waiver requests by the States under Federal grant programs. Please indicate whether you support or do not support each suggestion, providing the specific reasons for your agency's position.

1. Requiring quarterly publication by each Federal grantmaking agency of all waiver activity, including the action taken (i.e., approvals, partial approvals and disapprovals) and the processing time.
2. Establishing a standard deadline (e.g., 120 days as provided in Executive Order 13132) for a Federal agency's review of and action on a State's request for a waiver under a capped grant program.
3. Establishing a standard deadline for a Federal agency's review of and action on a State's request for a waiver under an open-ended entitlement program.
4. Synchronizing the time periods for approved waivers (e.g., approval for a 5-year period with 3-year renewal options).
5. Providing a governmentwide standard application form for States to request a waiver under a capped grant program.
6. Standardizing governmentwide agency processing procedures for capped grant programs
7. Standardizing governmentwide agency processing procedures for open-ended entitlement programs.
8. Allowing State certification of compliance with certain statutory requirements (e.g., maintenance of effort, matching funds, set-asides, earmarks, and cost caps) under a


- capped grant program.
9. Requiring streamlined processing for a waiver request by a State if the request is similar to an already-approved waiver request from another State under a capped grant program.
 10. Providing broad flexibility to waive many statutory requirements (such as in the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999, P.L. 106-25) for all capped grant programs awarded to States.
 11. Specifying standard provisions to ensure budget neutrality for the open-ended entitlement programs and other programs, including a multiple-year analysis of costs.

We would also appreciate your advice on specific language to accomplish suggestion 11 above.

Your response should be delivered to the National Economic Growth, Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs Subcommittee majority staff in B-377 Rayburn House Office Building and the minority staff in B-350A Rayburn House Office Building not later than noon on Monday, October 18, 1999. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Professional Staff Member Barbara Kahlow at 226-3058.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David M. McIntosh
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Economic Growth,
Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton
The Honorable Stephen Horn
The Honorable Dennis Kucinich
The Honorable Jim Turner